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Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 OIC-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8398

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 1966

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO
SUBJ: ICAO: USG PARTICIPATION IN INFORMAL AVIATION MEETINGS,
OUTSIDE ICAO CHANNELS

1. USREP WISHES REITERATE CONCERN, AND REQUESTS FOR POLICY-LEVEL CONSIDERATION OF PROLIFERATION OF REGIONAL (AND OTHER) ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE ICAO ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK (MOST OF WHICH ARE ADMINISTRATIVELY SUPPORTED BY ICAO SECRETARIAT). SUCH CONSIDERATION HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN, AND WE CONTINUE TO STAND BY WHILE ONE-BY-ONE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL BODIES COME INTO BEING WHICH DO NOT INVITE PARTICIPATION FROM OUTSIDE THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION, OR INVITE "OUTSIDERS" (SUCH AS US) AS OBSERVERS ONLY. THESE GROUPS (A) ARE SERIOUSLY ERODING ICAO'S ROLE; (B) ARE NOT IN BEST INTEREST OF US GOALS/OBJECTIVES BECAUSE THEY RESULT IN REGIONAL POSITIONS WHICH IN COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLIES TRANSLATE INTO MANY COORDINATED VOTES COMPARED TO US ONE; AND (C) MAKE IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO COORDINATE ITS POSITIONS AND ITS ROLE IN ICAO.

2. A MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM HAS ARISEN IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS/MEETINGS. US PARTICIPATION IS ARRANGED ON A NON-FORMAL BASIS WHICH MEANS THERE ARE NO INSTRUCTIONS TO US PARTICIPANTS, NOR REPORTS ON THE MEETINGS. (A) THERE WAS NO REPORT ON AFCAC/NAIROBI IN JUNE 1975 AND USREP HAD TO RELY ON AFRICAN COLLEAGUES ON COUNCIL FOR INFO RE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS THERE. (B) ICAO SECRETARIAT CONFIRMED IN COUNCIL RECENTLY THAT EANPG HAS NOT DECIDED TO INVITE NON-EUROPE OBSERVERS
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(USER STATES); BUT I UNDERSTAND THROUGH RUMOR THAT ONE OF

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TWO INDIVIDUALS FROM FAA REGIONAL OFFICE ATTENDED
LAST EANPG. USREP HAS NO REPORT AND HAS HAD TO WORK
"IN DARK", OR THROUGH SECRETARIAT AND EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES
WHO WERE THERE OR HAVE FIRST HAND REPORTS. (C) APPARENTLY
THE DIRS GEN OF CIVIL AVIATION OF FAR EAST MET RECENTLY
IN SOUTH EAST ASIA WITH US PARTICIPATION. ICAO TA BUR
DIR MADE DETAILED PRESENTATION THERE RE NEW USSR AVIATION
TRAINING AMONG OTHER THINGS. THERE IS NO REPORT ON THAT
MTG AND USREP WAS ASKED VERBALLY TO GET DETAILS FROM
SECRETARIAT. SOUTHEAST ASIA COUNCIL REPS FEEL THAT DGCA'S ONCE
AGAIN MAY BE MOVING TOWARD CREATION REGIONAL CAC (LIKE ECAC, AFCAC,
CLAAC). IF THIS IS SO, IS US FAVORABLE OR
OPPOSING? ICAO SECRETARIAT LETTER (TRANSMITTED
TO WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 24), ENDEAVORED TO EXPLAIN
TO USREP WHAT US POSITION IS ON REGIONAL MEETINGS.
THE SECRETARIAT DRAFT REPORT ON SEA MEETING QUOTES US AS
FOLLOWS: "THE DELEGATE OF MALAYSIA PRESENTED A PAPER DRAWING
ATTENTION TO A REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN AIR NAVIGATION PLANNING
GROUP WITH REGARD TO THE PRESENT DAY SUITABILITY OF FULL-SCALE
REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION MEETINGS...." "THE DELEGATE OF
THE UNITED STATES, IN SUPPORT OF MALAYSIA, EXPRESSED HIS COUNTRY'S
CONCERN WITH RESPECT TO FULL-SCALE REGIONAL MEETINGS IN THE
LIGHT OF THE REDUCTION OF THE BUDGET AND PERSONNEL OF THE FEDERAL
AVIATION AGENCY. HE STATED THAT THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS SHOULD,
.....BE LIMITED AND SHOULD INCLUDE "USERS" AND "PROVIDERS"...."
(D) ECAC HAS INVITED US OBSERVERS FOR
SOMETIME, BUT USMISSION TO ICAO HAS NEVER RECEIVED
A REPORT FROM US SOURCE ON ITEMS COMING INTO ICAO
(E.G. ECAC SECURITY RESOLUTION, CHARTER POLICY, ETC.) WE
MUST RELY ON EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES, OR WAIT UNTIL "HIT"
WITH SECRETARIAT WORKING PAPER. (E) USREP LEARNED FROM ICAO
REGIONAL DIR WHILE IN SOUTH AMERICA THAT THERE HAD
BEEN EFFORT OUTSIDE FORMAL CAR SAM MEETING TO CREAT REGIONAL
TECHNICAL PLANNING GROUP COMPARABLE TO EUROPE EANPG BUT WAS
FORESTALLED. WAS US INSTRUMENTAL IN BLOCKING IT? DID
US INITIATE IDEA? DID US KNOW OF EFFORT?

3. THESE ARE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF GROWING NUMBER OF CASES
WHERE US MISSION/ICAO HAS TO RELY ON ICAO SECRETARIAT OR
COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM OTHER REGIONS FOR INFO -- OR, WITHOUT
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INFORMATION, BE TOLD BY ICAO OR OPPOSING COLLEAGUES THAT
WE ARE MISDIRECTED IN OUR COUNCIL POSITIONS. USREP
REQUESTS REPORTS FROM US PARTICIPANTS IN THESE SEMI-ICAO,
"INFORMAL" REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL AVIATION MEETINGS SO THAT THE
US DOES NOT HAVE TO GO "HAT IN HAND" TO SECRETARIAT AND OTHER
DELEGATIONS TRYING TO GET INFO ON MEETINGS WHERE US WAS
REPRESENTED.
HARPER

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